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HOUSE MEMORIAL 28

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY CHILDHOOD OBESITY, INCLUDING NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND THE IMPACT OF FOODS AND BEVERAGES OFFERED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, obesity in children is a growing national problem and may be related to chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate physical education and nutrition programs and the sale of low-nutrition foods and beverages in public schools may be contributing to childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, according to the national center for health statistics, fifteen percent of children between the ages of six and nineteen are overweight, up from five percent in 1980, and

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1 over ten percent of children between the ages of two and five
2 are overweight, up from seven percent in 1994; and

3 WHEREAS, the federal department of agriculture launched
4 the team nutrition program in the late 1990s, which encourages
5 schools to follow dietary guidelines by educating children
6 about nutritious foods and encouraging physical activity; and

7 WHEREAS, ninety-eight public schools in forty-eight public
8 school districts in New Mexico are participating in the team
9 nutrition program; and

10 WHEREAS, a child's diet and physical activity level play
11 an important role in determining that child's weight, and in
12 the past few decades, children have become increasingly less
13 active due to such factors as the popularity of television,
14 computers and video games; consequently, many medical experts
15 believe that exercise may be more critical than diet for
16 reducing obesity and disease risk factors in children; and

17 WHEREAS, the revenue from vending machines in public
18 schools is vital in supporting public school activity;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
21 education study committee create a working group including
22 local school board members, school administrators, nutritional
23 experts, physical education instructors and representatives
24 from industries with vending machines in public schools to
25 study whether the lack of physical education and nutrition

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1 programs and the sale of low-nutrition foods and beverages in
2 public schools are contributing to childhood obesity; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
4 study committee study the feasibility of increasing funding for
5 nutrition and physical education programs in public schools by
6 creating a contractual agreement between New Mexico public
7 schools, including higher education institutions, and the
8 companies that sell products in vending machines on public
9 school property; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
11 study committee study the feasibility of this contractual
12 agreement creating a fund with the purpose of securing matching
13 funding with additional sources, including federal grants,
14 matching funds and private sector funding, for nutrition and
15 physical education programs; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and
18 the public education department.